

---

---

# Environmental Fact Sheet

---



U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 10

August 17, 2001

---

## **Investigation of Hazardous Materials at Poles, Inc. in Old Town, Idaho August 20 - August 30, 2001**

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and its contractor, E&E, will be conducting an investigation at Poles, Inc., located in Old Town, Idaho. The work will begin on August 20, 2001 and is expected to end on August 30, 2001. In this document you will find a brief explanation of the work and the purpose of the investigation.

### **Limited Sampling will be Conducted**

You may see E&E representatives setting up sampling equipment at the Poles, Inc. facility and surrounding areas. Samples will be tested for petroleum based products, wood treating chemicals and/or hazardous substances.

Samples that will be taken at the facility are:

- air
- groundwater
- soil above and below the ground
- pole treating solution (product)

Samples that will be taken at the surrounding areas are:

- Sediment in the Pend Oreille River
- Indoor air and wipes of dust from inside the Idaho Hill Elementary School
- We may also request permission to take air and soil samples from the houses nearest to Poles, Inc.

### **Why is EPA Collecting Samples?**

Idaho Department of Environmental Quality, after conducting several site investigations, requested EPA's involvement. Also, members of the community presented a written petition to EPA to conduct a preliminary assessment of the hazards to public health and the environment from Poles, Inc.

In response to these requests, EPA is gathering information to complete a combined Removal Assessment and Site Inspection, formally known as an Integrated Assessment (IA). The inspection will help EPA determine if petroleum products, wood treating chemicals, or other hazardous substances are present at the site and need immediate removal or a long term cleanup. At the same time, a Spill Prevention Inspection will help determine if the oil tanks at the facility have the necessary protection to contain spills.

EPA has coordinated this investigation with Idaho Department of Environmental Quality, Idaho Department of Health and Welfare, the Old Town, Idaho Advisory Group and with the cooperation of the owner of Poles, Inc.

## Background

Poles, Inc. is a wood treating facility located on the southwest bank of the Pend Oreille River in Old Town, Bonner County, Idaho. Poles, Inc. uses pentachlorophenol (PCP) as a wood preservative. The facility has been operating since 1945, nine months out of the year, closing during December, January and February. The nearest residence is about 400 feet west of the facility. The Idaho Hill Elementary School is about 500 feet south of the facility on a hill approximately 30 feet higher in elevation than the facility. The Pend Oreille River is located about 400 feet north of the facility.

### For More Information:

You can call the people listed below directly or by dialing  
EPA's toll free number:  
1-800-424-4372

Earl Liverman, On-Scene Coordinator, (208) 664-4858  
Mike Szerlog, On-Scene Coordinator, (206) 553-0279  
Lilibeth Serrano, Community Outreach, (206) 553-1388  
Paula Lyon, IDEQ, Project Manager, (208) 769-1422